

Remarks

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. Claims 1-12 were cancelled. Claims 13-52 have been added. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,205,719 ('719) to Bruce in view of Design Patent No. 243,853 to Ejchorszt and U.S. Patent No. 5,862,637 to Bruce. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-12.

New Claims 13-52

Independent claim 13 recites a connector having a telescoping element and means for connecting the telescoping element to the base support which is in fixed relation with the telescoping element. In contrast in U.S. Patent No. 6,205,719 to Bruce ('719) it is seen that the knuckle cap is hingedly connected to the knuckle clamp through a hinge pin. Therefore for at least this reason claim 13 is non-obvious over the '719 patent. Claims 14-23 depend from claim 13 and are therefore also non-obvious for at least this reason.

Independent claim 24 recites a connector having a telescoping element and a plate connectable to the base support. In contrast '719 disclose a cap extending from the yoke, the cap being connectable to the base support. As the cap differs from the plate Applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 is non-obvious over the '719 patent. Therefore dependent claims 25-38 are also non-obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 24.

Claim 39 recites connector means having first and second telescoping elements and first and second plates securable to one another to connect frame elements. In contrast the '719 patent discloses a knuckle having a single clamp and a single cap that is used to connect the frame elements. Therefore, for at least this reason claim 39 is non-obvious over the '719 patent. Therefore, dependent claims 40-52 are also non-obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 39.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reasons provided above claims 13-52 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313

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